

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed November 28, 2007, is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Claims 1-19 remain pending. The Examiner requested the amendment to claim 1 as presented herein in order to distinguish the cited reference. Therefore, claim 1 is now patentably distinct from the cited reference. Claims 2-19 are dependent from claim 1 are thus patentably distinct for the same reasons applicable to claim 1. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should therefore be withdrawn.

Applicants have deleted the priority claim to the prior-filed application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/845,162, and are submitting a Supplemental Declaration that reflects the same.

Favorable action on the merits of the claims is therefore earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (949) 760-9600. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2862.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 7, 2007

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